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THE UNIVERSALISTS ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

At the national convention of Universalists, held at Lynn, Mass., Oct. 22-24, the following preambles and resolution were adopted unanimously, and forwarded to the Conference of American States at Washington, D. C.

Whereas, More than sixty cases of international controversy have been settled by arbitration since 1816, to more than half of which the United States have been a party, and to nearly one-third of which Great Britain has been a party; and

Whereas, the London *Economist* declares that in the great wars of Christendom during twenty-five years of this period, namely, from 1852 to 1877, including the Franco-German War and our own Civil War, there was expended not less than \$12,500,000,000, involving the slaughter of millions of men, and the ruin of millions of homes; therefore

Resolved, That this General Convention of Universalists earnestly request our National Government to use every means in its power to form treaties with other nations providing beforehand that all controversies shall be referred to a Board of Arbitration before resort to arms.

[The economy of arbitration and the extravagance of war,—its effect on taxation merely,—have never been brought in simpler or sharper contrast. Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D., who proposed and Rev Henry Blanchard of Portland, who reported the resolutions, as well as the enthusiastic vote of a great representative body of Christians, deserve notice and gratitude.—ED.]

CHRISTIANITY VS. RUM AND OPIUM.

Miss E. E. Flagg, writing to the *Christian Cynosure*, wonders how such a paragraph as the following, clipped from one of our Boston dailies, will read to the people fifty years from now.

"The Steamship Nithsdale is loading at pier 4, Charlestown, a large cargo for the west coast of Africa. It includes 1120 packages of New England rum; 700 hogsheads already have been loaded, some tobacco and a few barrels of flour." The paper further states that "the Liberian government wanted the Nithsdale to carry over four missionaries, but did not furnish any passage money, so the agents refused to carry them." The agents did quite right. What would be the use of sending four missionaries to Africa with 1120 casks of New England rum? The place for missionaries is in *Massachusetts* where, within five miles of the State-house, nine-tenths of the rum which America sends to Africa is produced.

Dr. R. S. Storrs did not state the case too strongly when he said:

Christianity helps commerce everywhere, and Christianity has the right to require that commerce shall help it and shall not hinder it. Christianity has the right to demand that the agents of commerce on foreign shores shall not be men of loose life and vicious manners and an infidel spirit; and Christianity has certainly the right to require that commerce shall not debase the nation which it is trying to lift by helping the opium traffic in China and by pouring millions of gallons of the vilest liquors into Africa. Every dollar won by a traffic of that kind

ought to burn in a man's hand like a bit of the infernal asphalt which is the pavement of Hell. Riches so acquired simply reek with the blood of immortal souls; and Christianity would be false to its trust if it did not re-monstrate and condemn; and civilization and commerce are false to their trust if they do not in this sympathize with the Gospel of our Lord and of his Christ.

SELLING NAVY YARDS.

The Secretary of the United States Navy will propose to sell such of the United States Navy Yards as can not be profitably utilized for the building and repairs of naval vessels. That seems sensible. Why keep them in idleness and lose the interest on their value for commercial purposes, and spend money in repairs on them or let them rot down. Common business thrift would compel any owner but a government to use or sell them. And yet we hear the cry for new vessels, new fortifications and greater armaments everywhere. *Cui bono?* To spend millions on such things is to waste what they cost and then pay an enormous interest on that cost to keep them up—or else let them run to decay and ruin. If new fortifications are built they must be manned. To man such fortifications as are now recommended would require a new army of 75,000 men (100,000 in all) to be fed, clothed and paid to live in idleness; to be a standing menace to peace; to furnish politicians an argument for war; to give the government a new pretext for taxing the industrious and thrifty, and to furnish contractors a new temptation to corruption. Let us have the reasons for a great army and navy. Look at the first: *National pride*. Is militarism then the chief ingredient of patriotism? Cannot a citizen feel an honest pride in the size, wealth, liberty, happiness and peace of his country? Must a nation become a great boastful boxer or fighter before it can command the respect of its citizens?

THE SIZE OF IT.

We confess to feeling a little tired of the never-ending talk about the size of our country, especially the western part of it. When this territory is peopled, it will indeed demand attention from the philanthropist and the missionary, and to anticipate that time and forestall Satan is a present and vital duty. But our weariness arises from the emphasis put upon *size*, as if that were all. Not even population determines the relative importance of localities or communities. Looked at as missionary fields the census casts needed light. But looked at as a power, intellectual, moral and spiritual, many a sparsely populated town, undistinguished for commerce, manufactures or wealth, is a peer to its city cousin. Goliaths do not always conquer. "Your great country" seemed to me an ironical expression in the mouths of certain friends abroad, as if bigness were our only remarkable attribute.

The coming hours are open, yet pure and spotless receptacles for whatever you may deposit there. Let us start up and live. Here come the moments that cannot be had again; some few may yet be filled with imperishable good.—*James Martineau*.